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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of
EGON BRAUNING

U.S. Serial No.: 09/975,620
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X
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Group Art Unit 3636

Examiner: Stephanie N. Harris

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Stephanie B. Drabzyk 7/29/03
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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97 and 1.98, applicant and his attorney respectfully request that the following patent publications, copies of which are attached hereto, be made of record in the official United States Patent and Trademark Office file relating to the above-identified application. The citation of these patent publications should not be construed as an admission that they constitute prior art with respect to the present application.

Foreign Patent Publications

International Patent Publication No. WO 00/24296A
German Patent Publication No. DE 754 407 C

Applicant's attorney notes that each of the above-listed patent publications were cited in a European Search Report issued in connection with applicant's corresponding application (i.e., EP01810918). With reference to the attached copy of

the European Search Report, applicant notes that International Patent Publication No. WO 90/14031 and U.S. Patent No. 3,863,982 have already been cited in the Information Disclosure Statement mailed January 18, 2002. With reference to German Patent Publication No. 4400395, applicant notes that it has a Switzerland counterpart (i.e, CH 685,848), which was also cited in the January 18th Information Disclosure Statement.

The attached copy of the European Search Report provides an indication as to the relevance of the references listed therein. More particularly, the European Search Report assigns a category "X" designation (i.e., a document of particular relevance if taken alone) to International Patent Publication No. WO 00/24296A and German Patent Publication No. DE 754 407 C. In such circumstances, additional comments concerning the relevance of the foregoing patent publications are considered unnecessary. In addition, applicant's attorney notes that an English-language translation of German Patent Publication No. DE 754 407 C is not presently available. However, applicant will provide the United States Patent and Trademark Office with an appropriate English-language translation upon the Examiner's request for same.

In order to facilitate the Examiner's citation of the patent publications listed above, applicant's attorney has completed United States Patent and Trademark Office Form PTO-1449. The completed Form is attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience.

Although this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after mailing of a first Office Action on the merits and before a final Office Action, each item of information contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. In the foregoing circumstances, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(1) and (e)(1), it is believed that no fees are due in connection with the submission of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. However, if any such fees are due, including extension and petition fees, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 501402.

Respectfully Submitted,

MCCARTER & ENGLISH



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